

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The preceding amendments and following remarks are submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed September 26, 2005. With this Amendment, claim 30 has been amended, and claims 25-28, 32-33, and 40-42 have been cancelled. Claims 1-24, 29-31, and 34-39 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration, examination and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 27 stating that this claim is redundant with claim 25. The Examiner states that appropriate correction is required.

In response thereto, Applicant has cancelled claim 27, rendering the Examiner's objection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 25, 27-28, 30-31, 33-35, 37, and 39-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Allen et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,172,457).

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 25, 27-28, 30-31, 33-35, 37, and 39-42 are not rendered obvious by the *Allen et al.* reference. However, in order to move prosecution along in this case, Applicant has cancelled claims 25-28, 32-33 and 40-42. In addition, Applicant has amended independent claim 30 to incorporate the limitations contained in dependent claim 32 (now cancelled), which the Examiner indicates in paragraph 7 of the Office Action would be allowable. Based on this amendment, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claim 30 and dependent claims 31 and 33-39 are now in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 1-24 and 29 are allowed. In addition, in paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 26, 32, 36, and 38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, independent claim 30 has been amended to incorporate the limitation contained in dependent claim 32. Based on this amendment, Applicant asserts that claims 30-31 and 34-39 are now in condition for allowance.

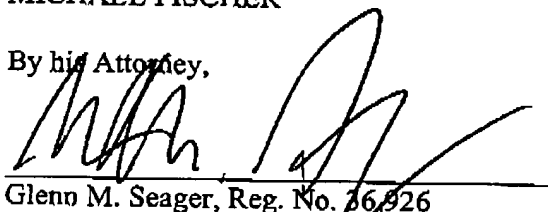
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If the Examiner would like to discuss the Application or its examination, please call the undersigned at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Attorney,

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